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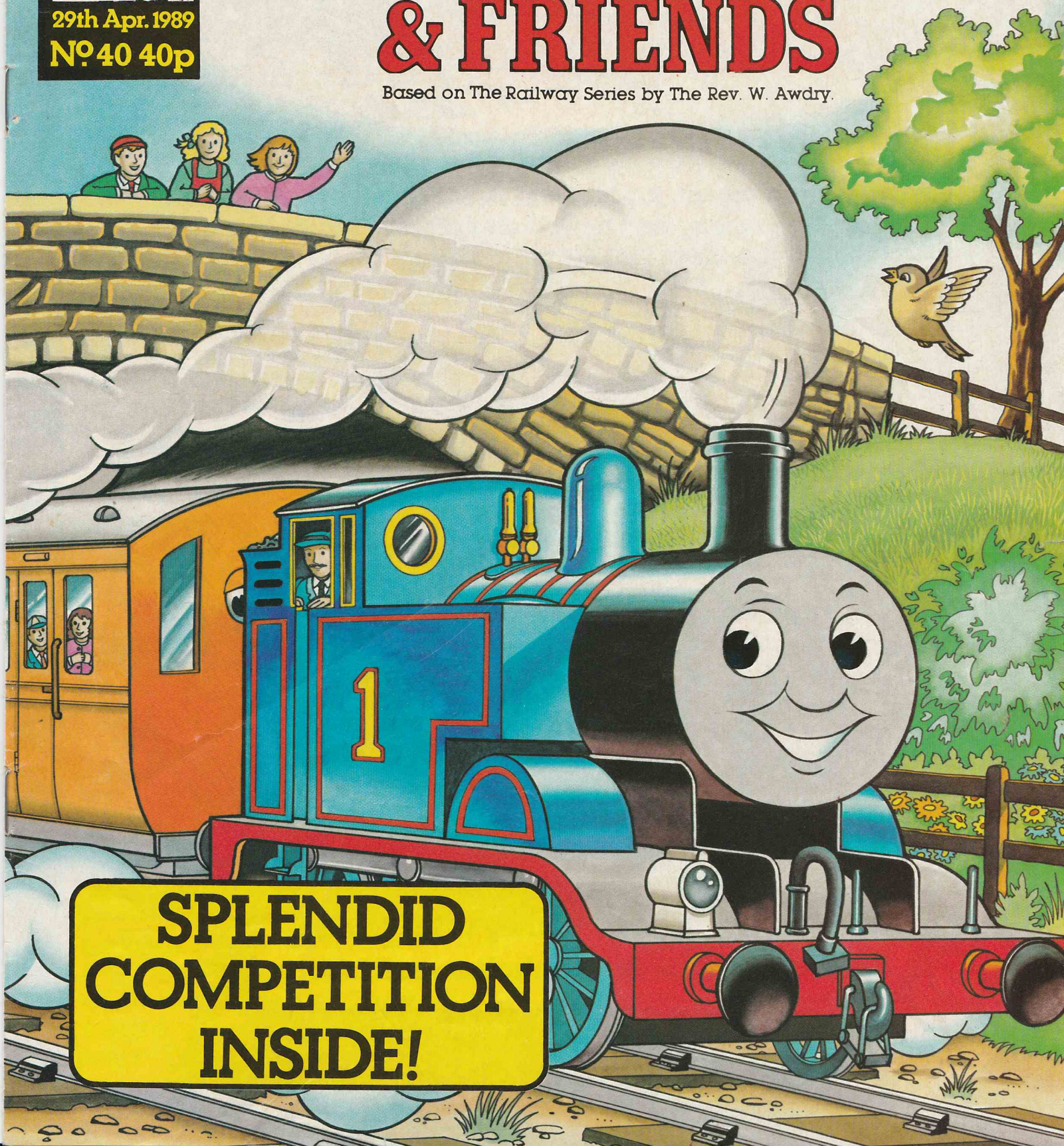
29th Apr. 1989
No. 40 40p

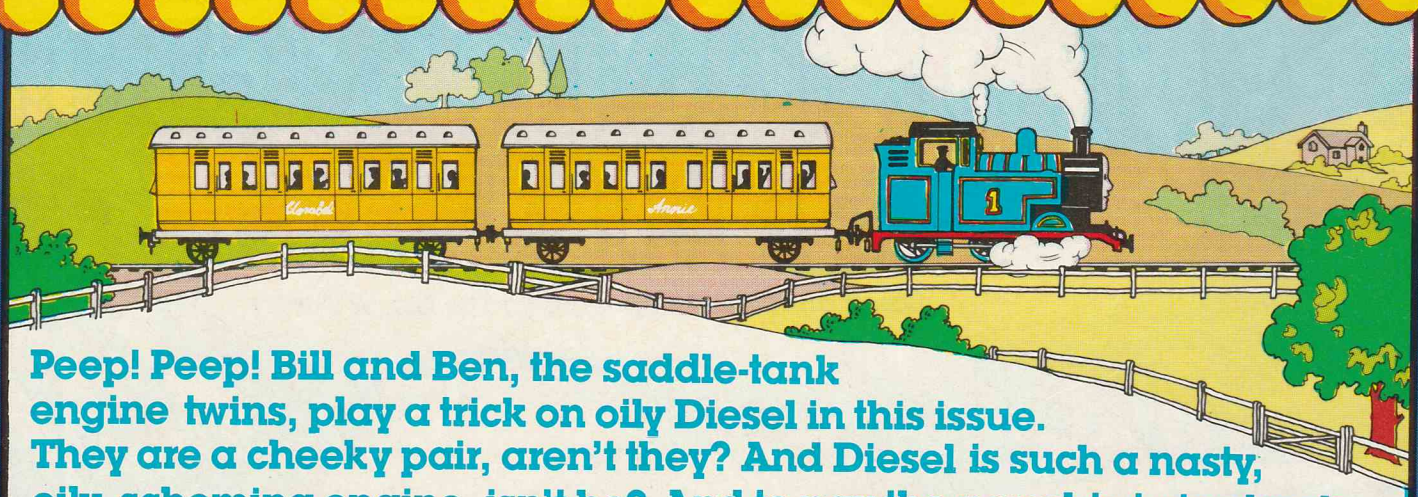
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



SPLENDID COMPETITION INSIDE!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



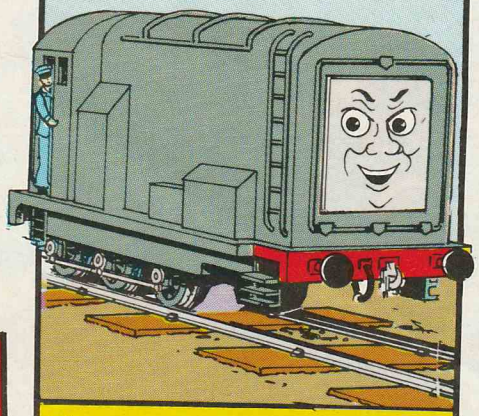
Peep! Peep! Bill and Ben, the saddle-tank engine twins, play a trick on oily Diesel in this issue. They are a cheeky pair, aren't they? And Diesel is such a nasty, oily, scheming engine, isn't he? And to pay the naughty twins back, he plays a trick on *them* too! Happy reading!

EVERY ISSUE!

Would you like every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** sent straight to your home? Would you like to be the proud owner of one of Thomas's splendid Packs? Would you like to become a member of Thomas's Club? Turn to page 7 to find out how to do all these things **in one go!**

Don't miss our splendid competition on page 13! You could be a winner!

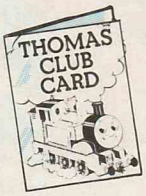
DIESEL SAYS . . .



I'm a Really Nasty Engine!

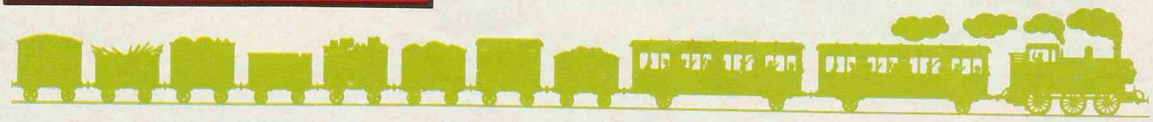
A TOKEN MEMBER!

Another way to join Thomas's Club is to collect 3 tokens like the one below. Send one **yellow**, one **red** and one **green**, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*



You will receive your own little black and white membership card and number!

Please allow 28 days for delivery.



In our next issue: Some visitors come to the Island of Sodor and they want to buy Thomas! Will the Fat Controller *sell* him?

THOMAS TOKEN

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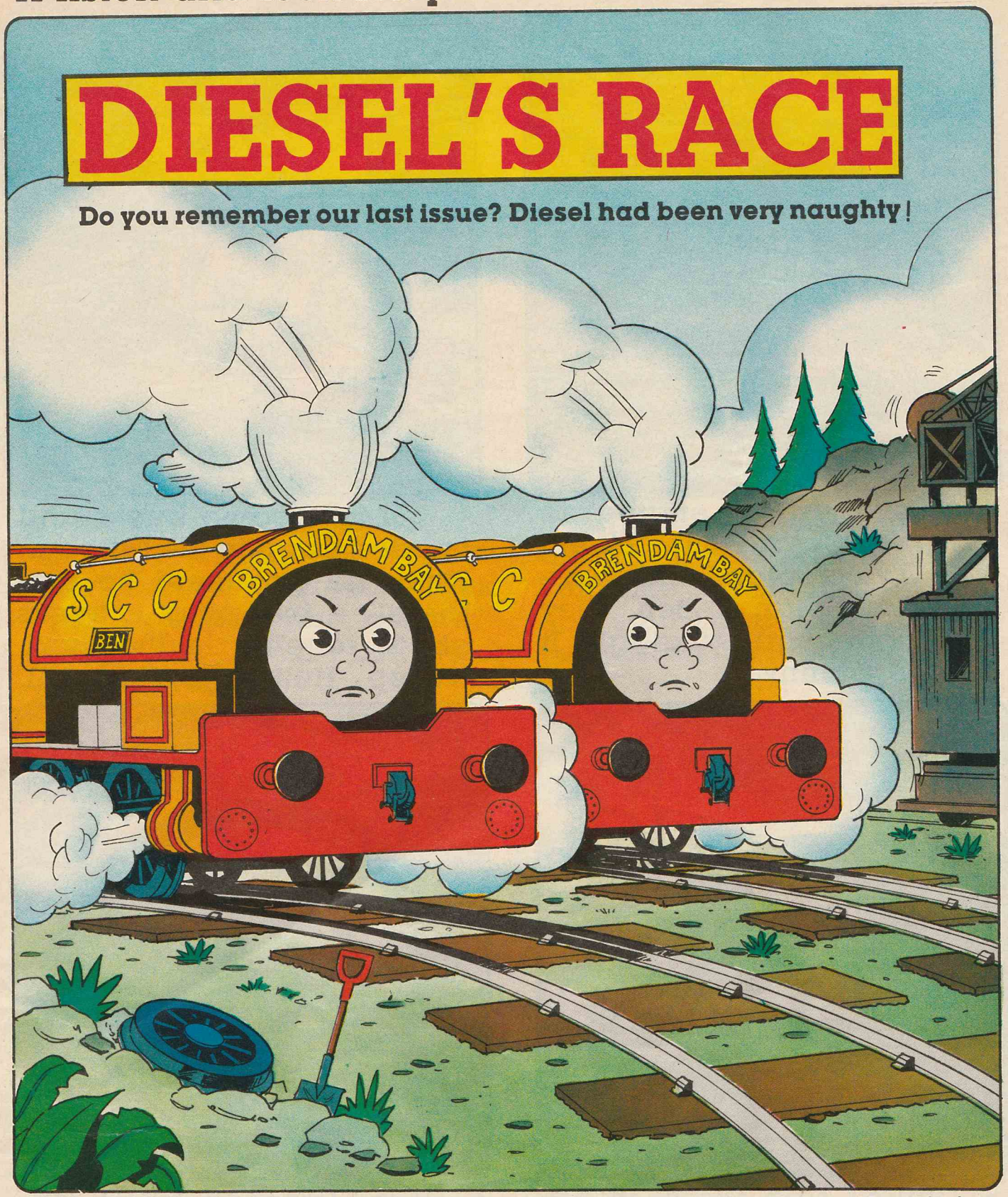
ABC

A listen and look story!

DIESEL'S RACE

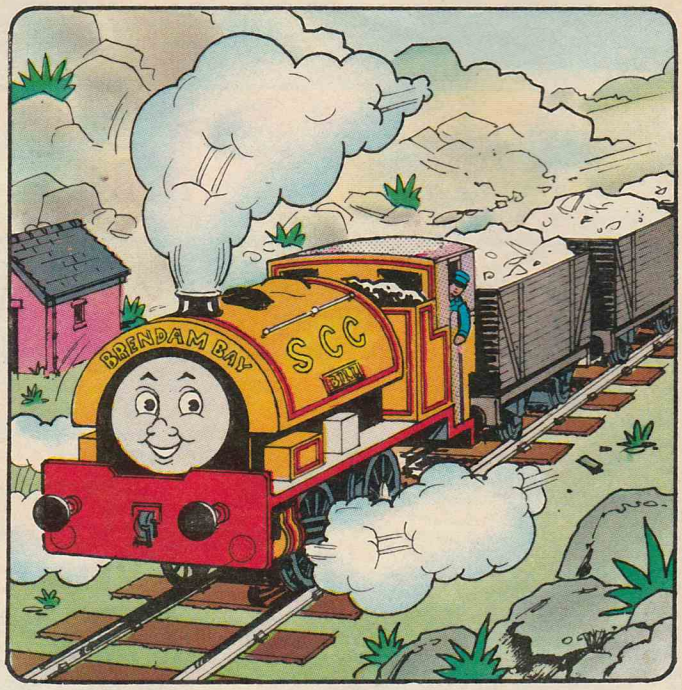
Do you remember our last issue? Diesel had been very naughty!



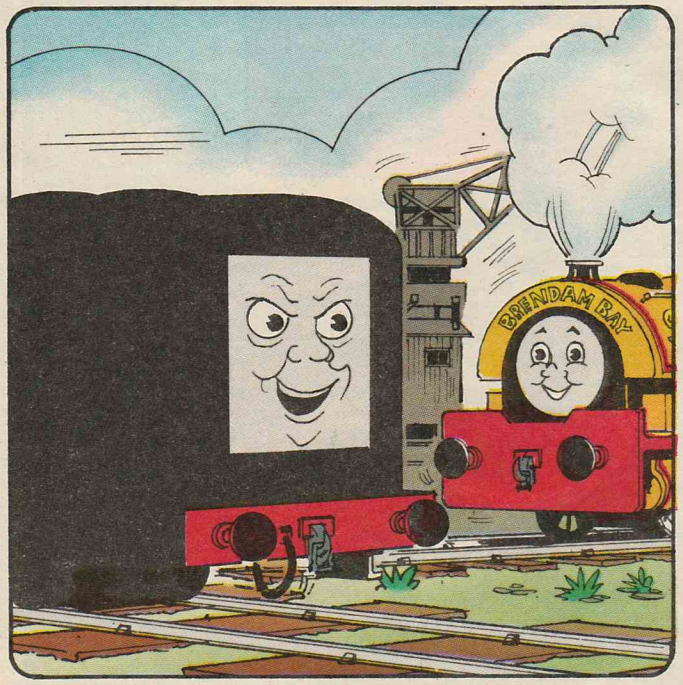
1. Bill and Ben are the twin tank engines who work at the clay pits. They had heard about Diesel's behaviour at the harbour and they were cross.

2. "Dump our china clay into the sea, will he?" snorted Bill. "Bump our trucks right off the pier, did he?" fumed Ben. "That dumper and bumper will have to be paid back!"

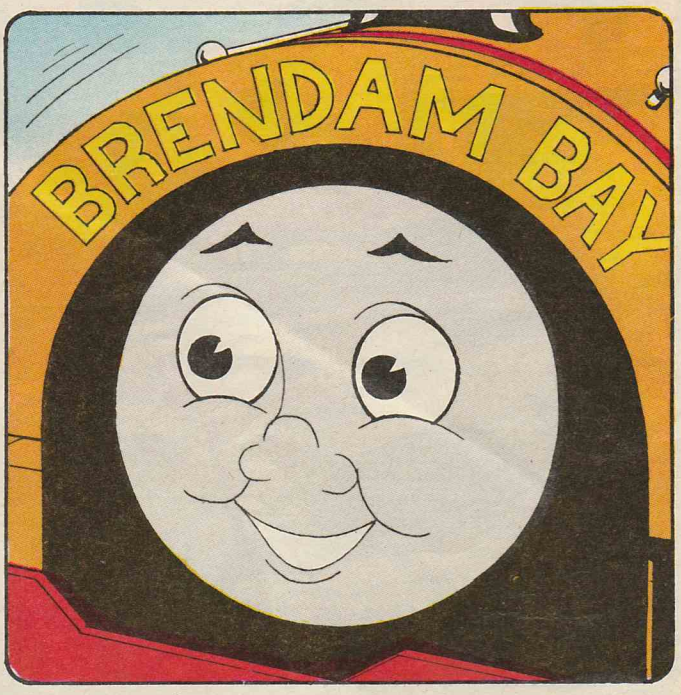
3. "We're just the engines to do it, too," said Bill. "Listen, Ben, I've a plan." Bill whispered his plan to Ben. They they both began to giggle. It was very funny.



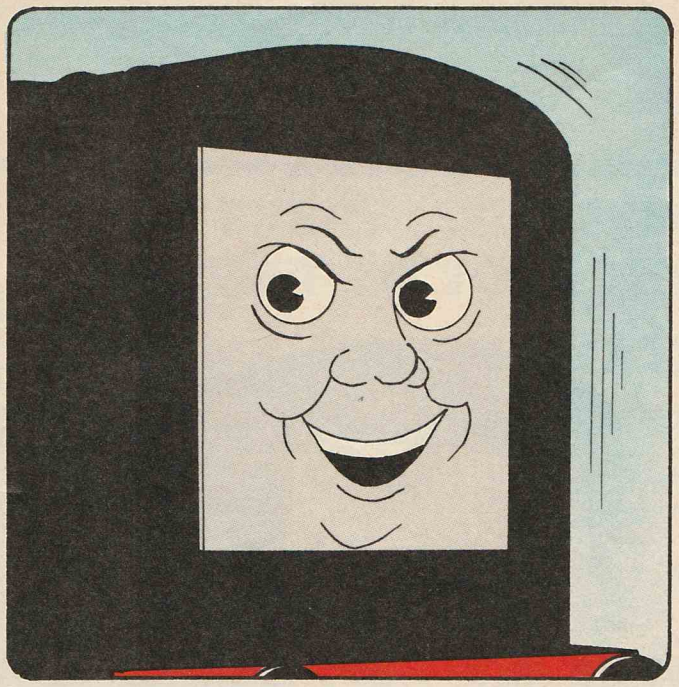
4. Bill took some trucks and headed down to the harbour. When he got there he saw Diesel, bumping trucks about roughly in the yard. "Peeep Hullo!" called Bill.



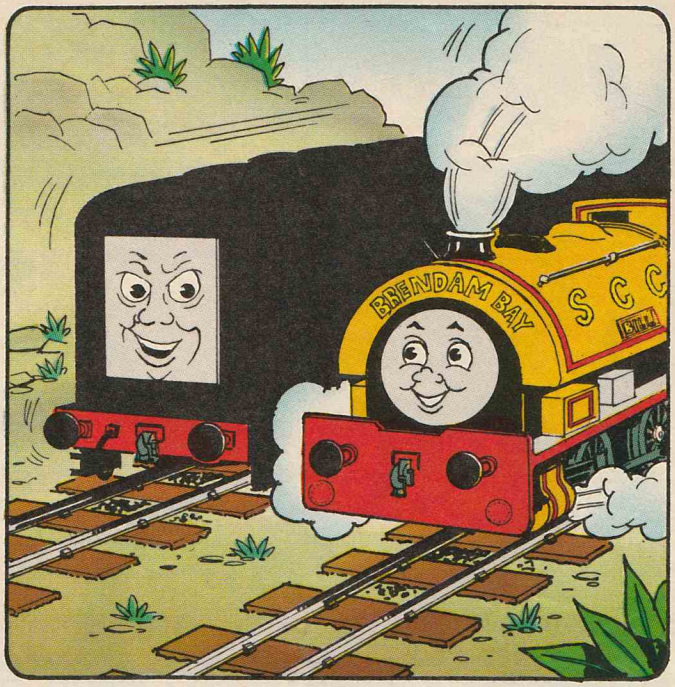
5. "Hullo," said Diesel in his oily voice. "Who might you be?" "I'm Bill," said Bill. "You must be Diesel. I hear you think you are a very strong engine."



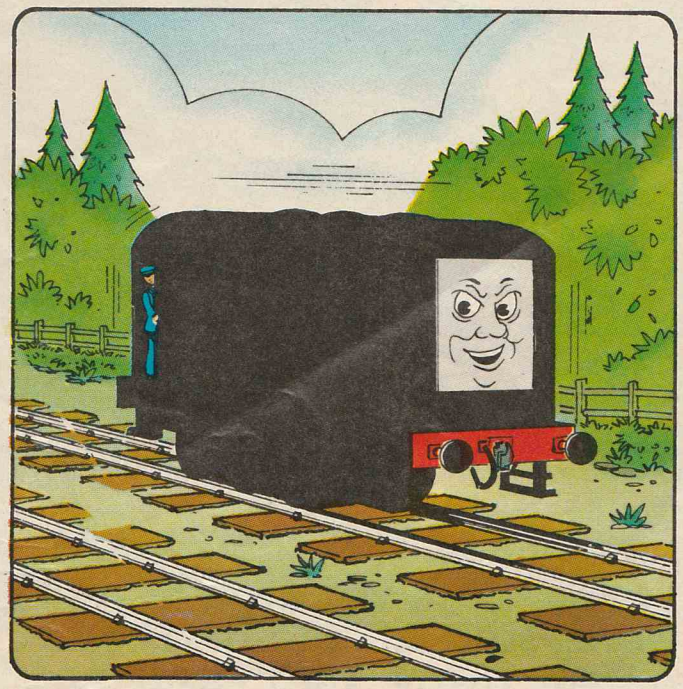
6. "Hah!" laughed Diesel. "Of course I'm strong. We diesels are revolutionary!" "Oh, I see," said Bill. "And I suppose you diesels must be faster as well."



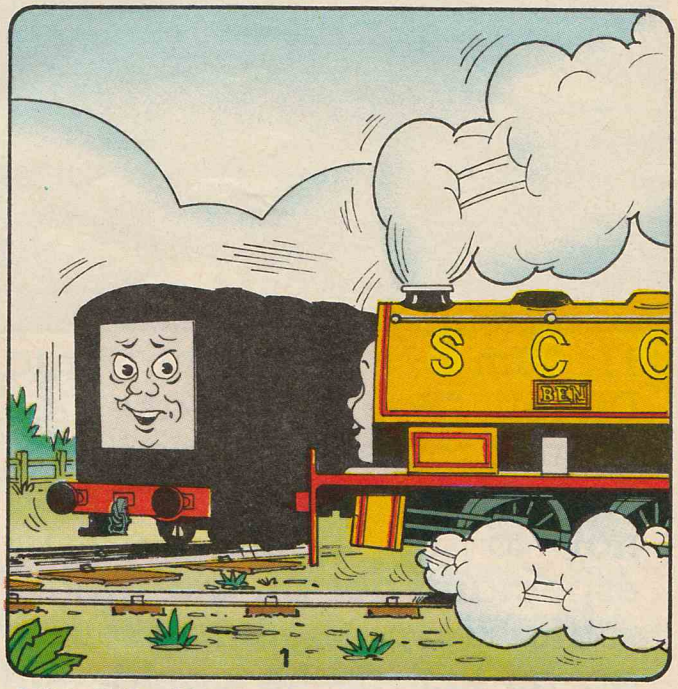
7. "Hah!" laughed Diesel again. "Naturally, we're much faster engines." "Then you wouldn't mind a race?" asked Bill. "'Course not," said Diesel proudly.



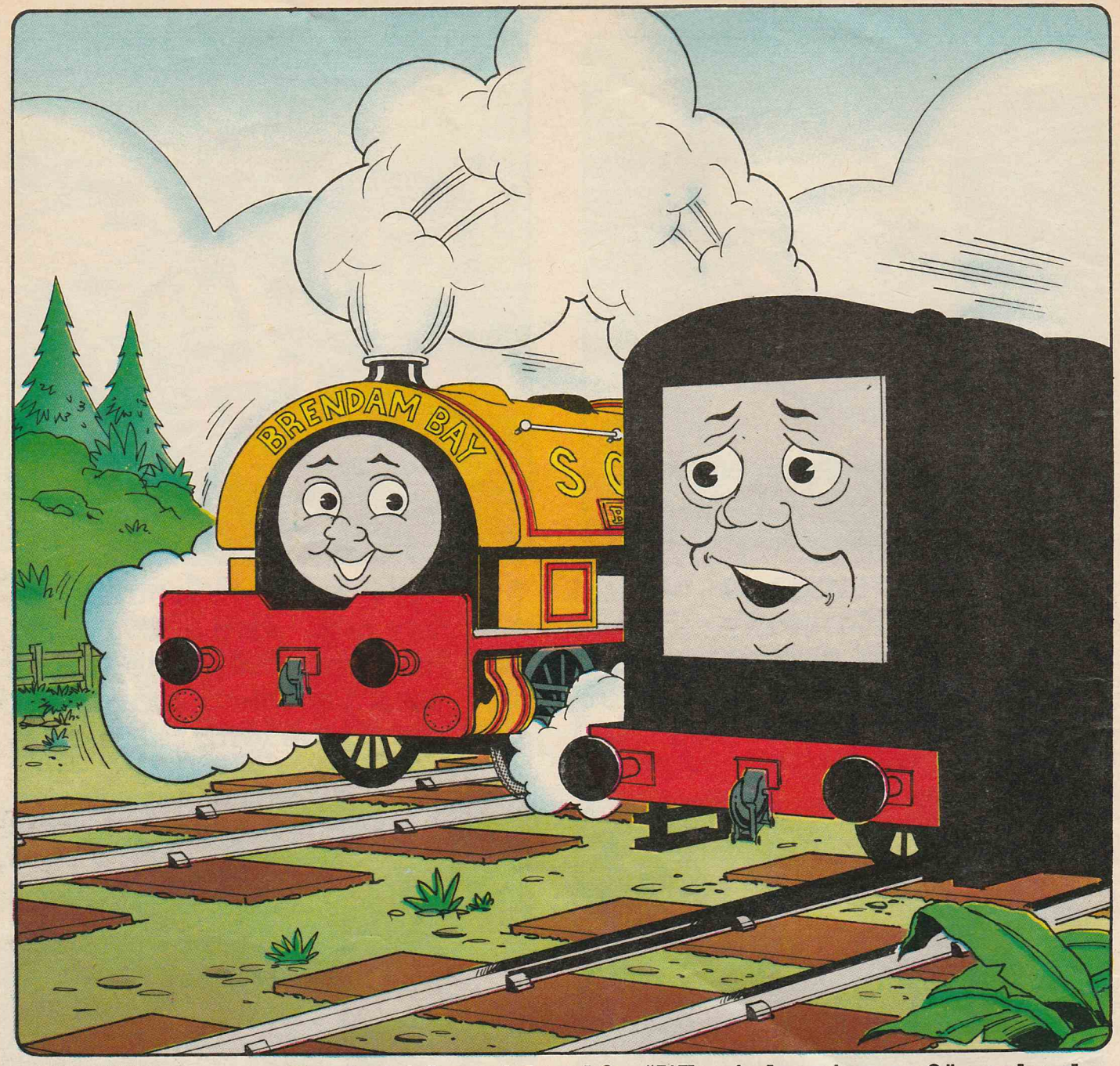
8. "There are two routes to the clay pits," said Bill. "I'll let you take the short one." "Oh no," said Diesel. "I can beat you taking the long route any day!"



9. Their drivers agreed and off they went. Diesel raced hard, but when he arrived at the clay pits there was Bill waiting for him. At least he **thought** it was Bill!



10. "Hullo, slow poke," said Ben. "You took your time!" "What? Huh? How did . . .?" Diesel muttered. "Sorry, old chum," said Ben. "Perhaps you'd like to race back?"



11. "Um . . . all right," said Diesel. "You can take the shorter route this time," said Ben. Diesel was determined not to be beaten again, especially not on the shorter route. He pushed himself to go as fast as he could. But when he arrived back at the harbour, Bill was already there! He looked calm too, as if he hadn't raced at all!

12. "What kept you?" asked Bill. Diesel couldn't say a word. How could this little tank engine have beaten him so easily? "I think you're not as fast as you thought you were," said Bill. Diesel just slid quietly away. That night, Bill and Ben laughed and laughed. "We may not be so quick," joked Ben. "But we **are** quick witted!"

THE END

Diesel gets his revenge – on page 17!

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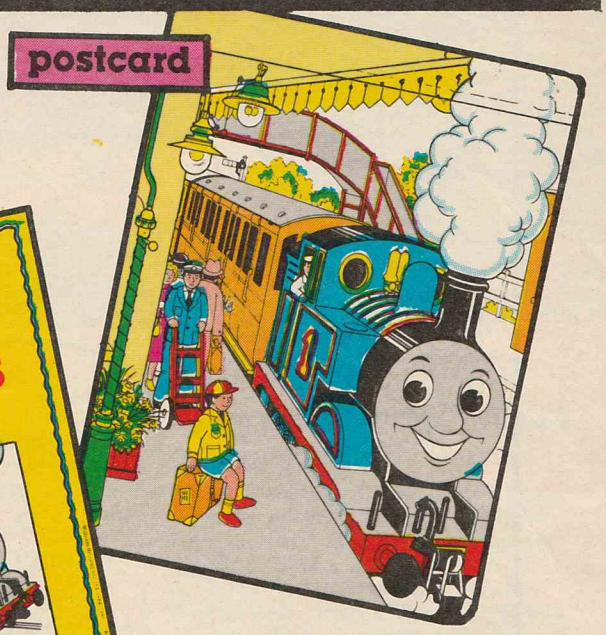
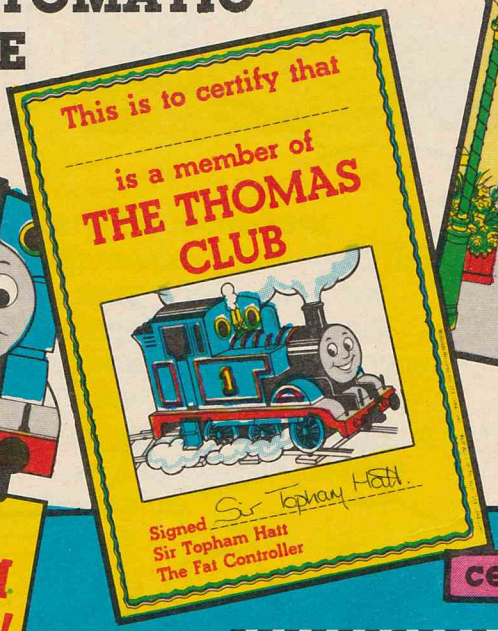
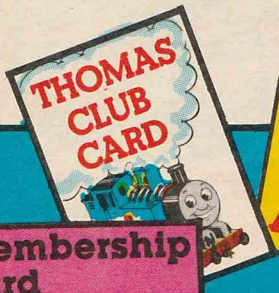


postcard



certificate



membership card

door hanger

It costs just **£9.75** to be sent every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine** for a year – and this includes postage and packing. You will also receive our very special subscriber's **pack** (above). Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.75 to: *Thomas Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

I should like to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and understand I will receive 26 issues by post. I enclose a cheque/postal order for **£9.75** to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member or the **Thomas club** if I do not already belong!

Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

My favourite part of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends magazine is .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

.....

Thomas Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.

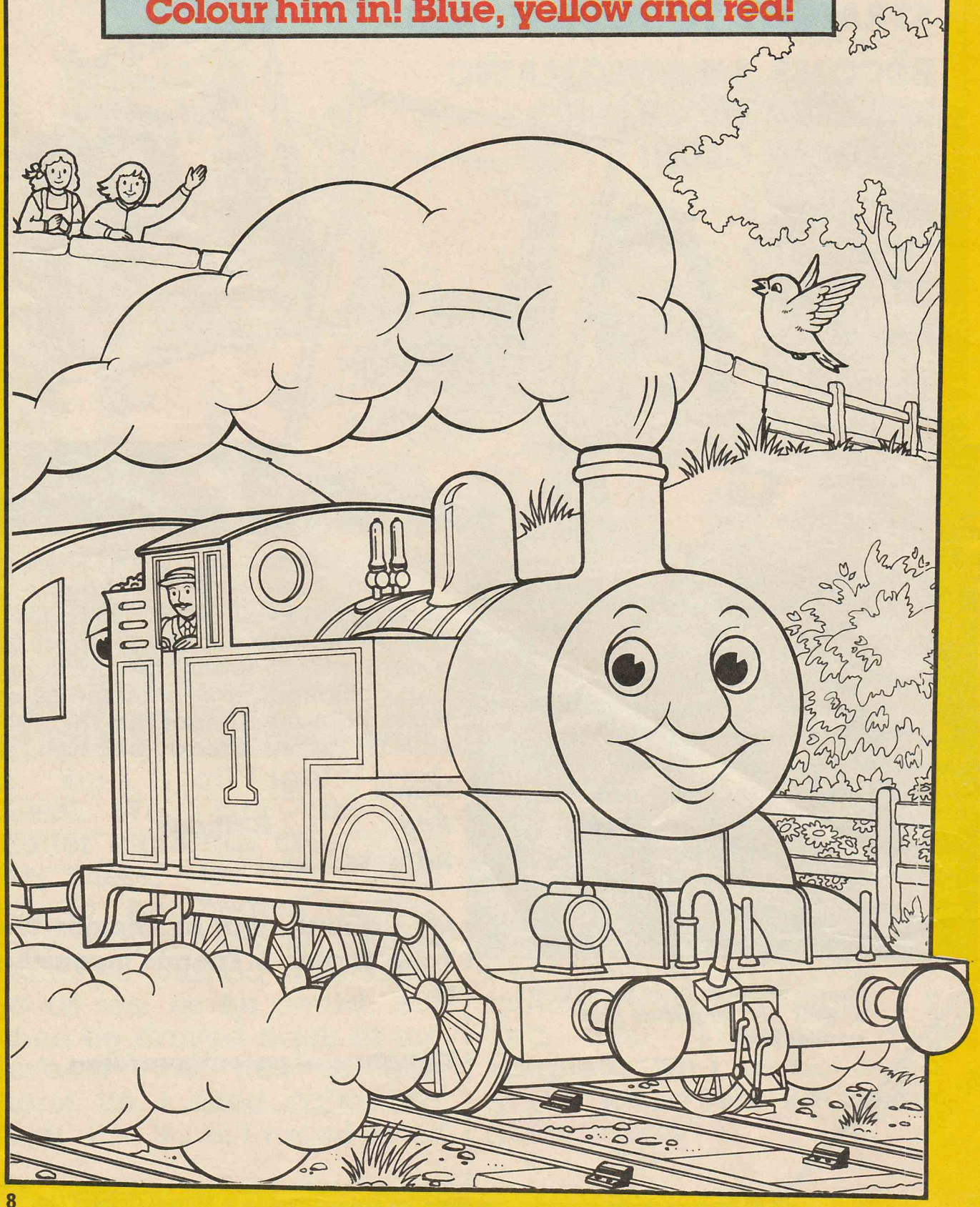
Please allow 28 days for delivery of your first magazine and special pack.

Please make your cheque or postal order payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

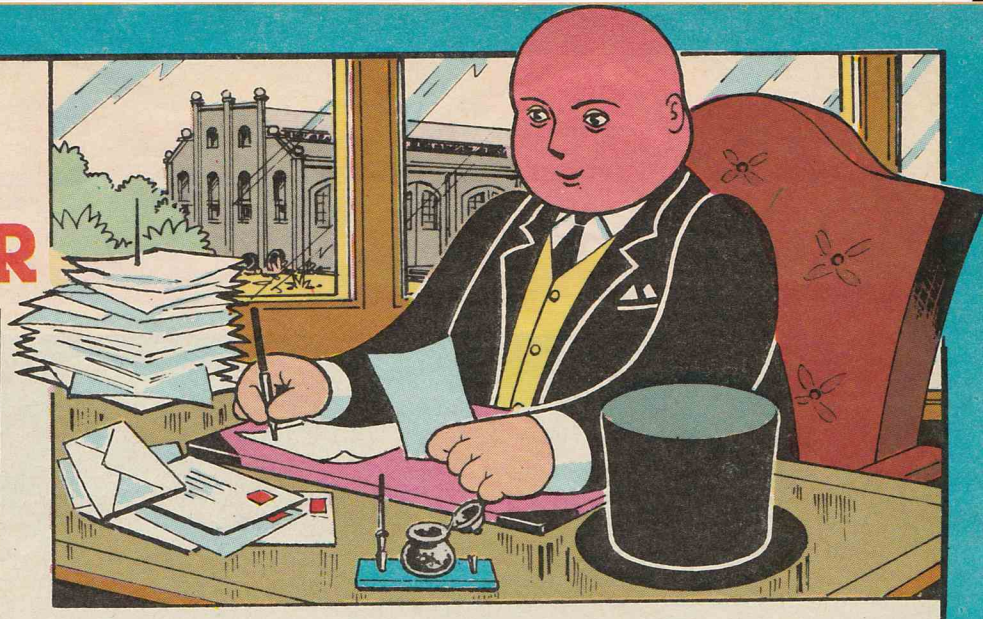
See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

COLOURING TIME!

Here comes Thomas! Full steam ahead!
Colour him in! Blue, yellow and red!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy has made some trucks out of shoe boxes. They are covered in brown sticky paper and have faces too. I pull them along with string.
Love from **James**, aged 2.
What a lucky boy you are, James, having such a clever mummy. I do hope that you enjoy playing with your trucks and that they don't cause you too much trouble.

★★★★★★★★★

James wins a set of Thomas vinyl stickers, from Scorpio Products International Ltd.

★★★

PUSHCHAIR FUN!

Dear Fat Controller,
Sometimes when my little brother Jamie is in his pushchair, we pretend that our dog Maisy is one of your engines, pulling him up the hill. When it is cold, our breath makes the steam.
Love from **Tom**, aged 4.
I say, Maisy must be a very strong dog indeed. But don't forget to let her rest sometimes, because being an engine is tiring work.

WELL BEHAVED!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy buys me Thomas the Tank Engine things when I have been good. What do the engines usually get when they are good?
From **Paul**, aged 5.
When the engines have been well behaved, their drivers normally give them a nice polish at the end of the day. That's something that all the engines really enjoy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our best birthday wishes go out to:

Chris Gazzard, Christopher Paul Griffin, Edward Buxton (11831), Ashley Kent (0735), Christopher Black (14734), Andrew Roth (21423), Luke Pawelko, Shane David Cole, Barry Tinsley (2348), Andrew Gell, Lucy Baker, Cauren Lucy Ames, David Hamblin (0675), David Thomas Snowdon (19576), Mark James Paver (23452), Kirsty Turner (15504), Christopher Smith, Christopher Beck (10599), Ian Bettles, James Sinclair Chamberlain, Matthew Tye (8303), Stuart Blomfield (9290), Richard Garnett (16398), Kelly Funmor (21258), Christopher Smith (14776), Christopher Miller (25226), Joanna Powell, Adam Pike (10171), Andrew James (5799), Claire Tinsley, Kevin Prodhoe, James McGukin, Robert Johnson (3807), Christopher Noakes (7020), Philip Richard Power (22074) and Stuart Garner (20528).

If you'd like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays, but we will do our best.

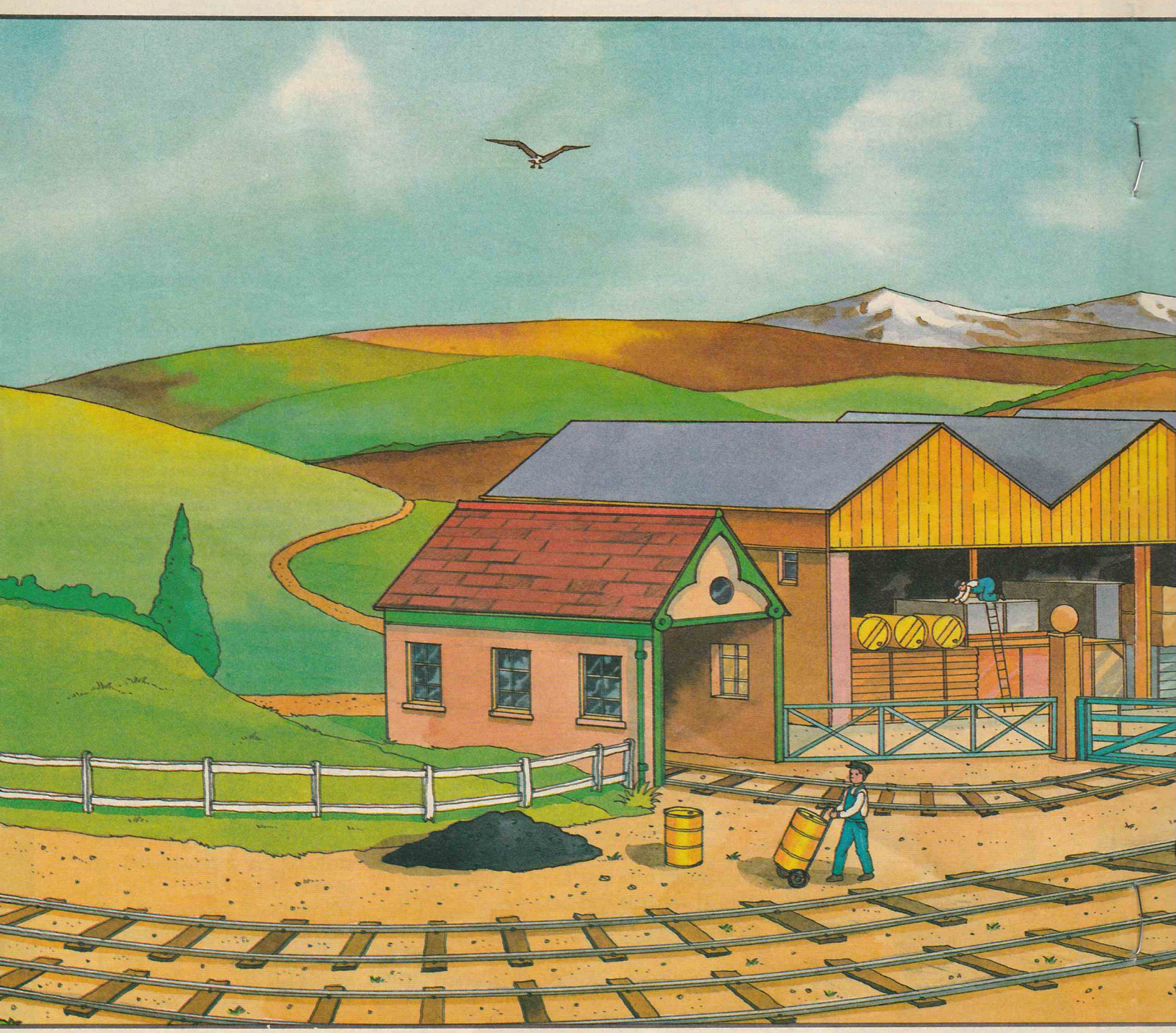
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Past the wa



Who is puffing past the warehouse?

Can you see the man with the hammer?

Is the signal up or down?

How many birds are flying?

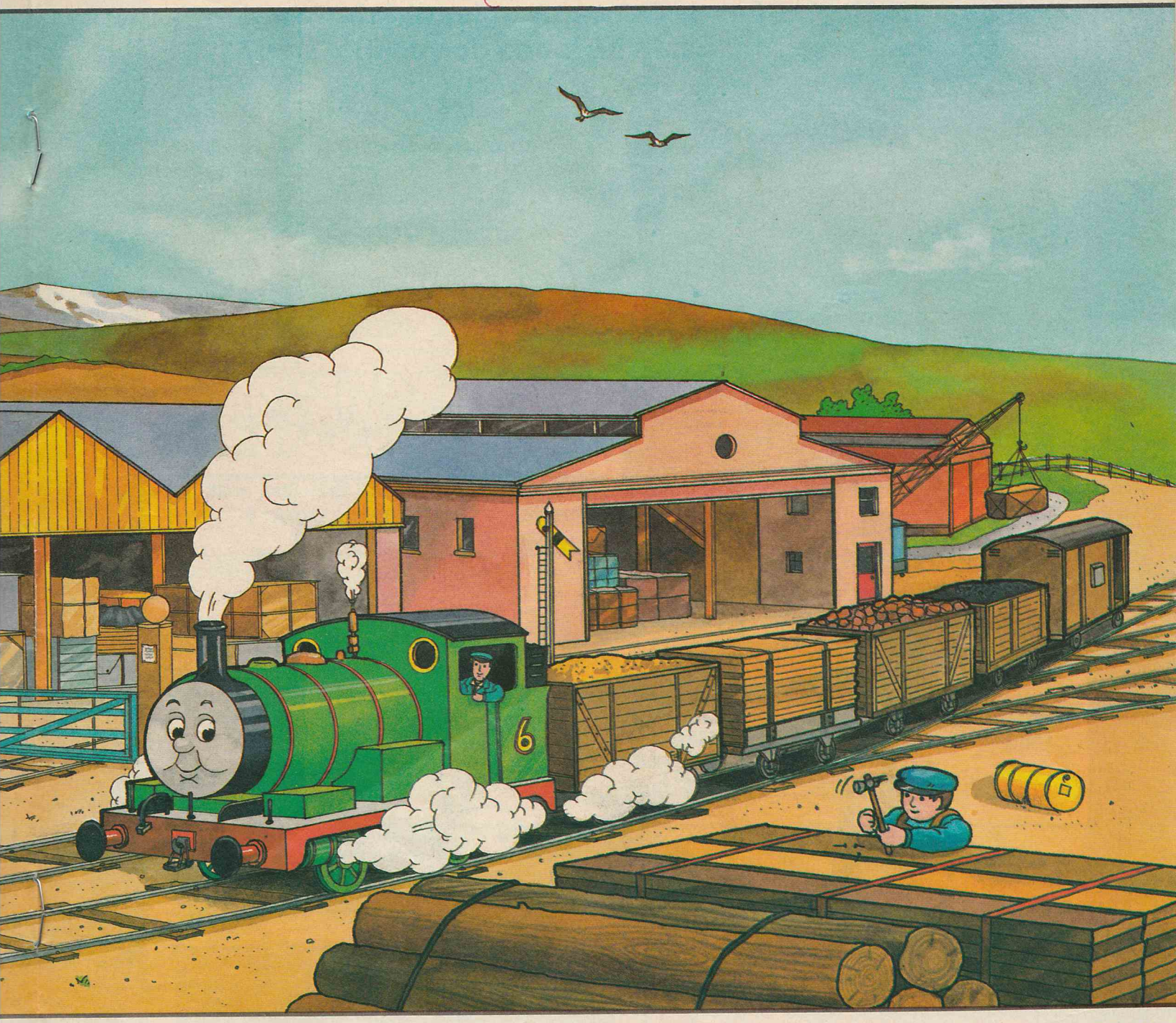
Is there a man in t

What colour is the

Point to the crane!

How many trucks i

arehouse!



n in the warehouse?

s the gate to the warehouse?

rane!

ucks is Percy pulling?

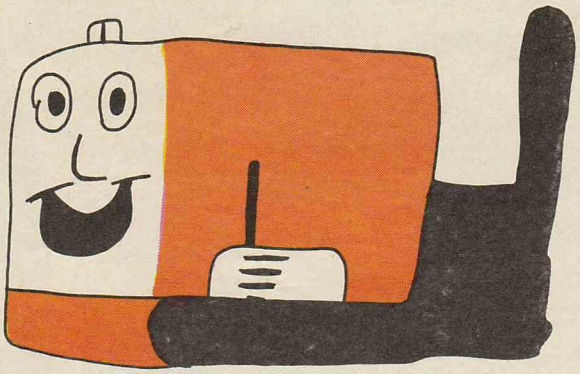
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, detach this centrespread and cut along the dotted lines. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

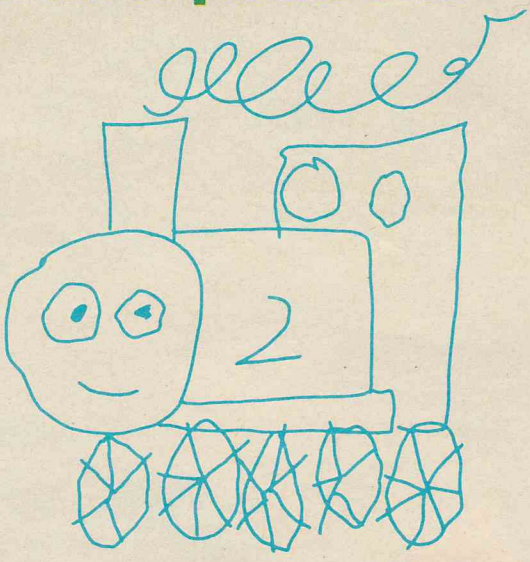
Next: Into the docks!

YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

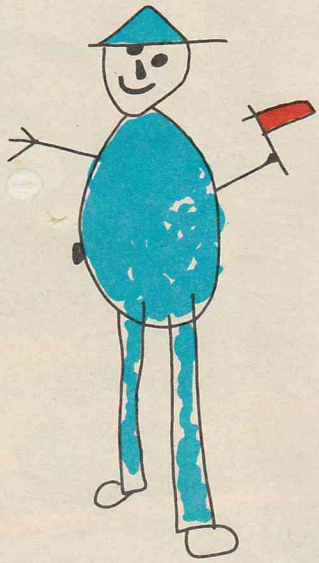
Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent us. Which one do you like best?



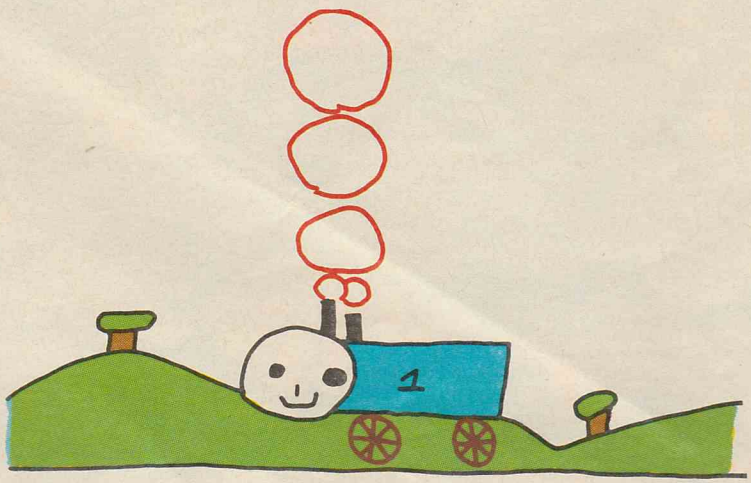
This spendid drawing of Terence the Tractor was sent by **Andrew Foxley**, aged 6, from Liverpool. His membership number is 6280.



This smart picture of Edward was drawn by **David Welsh**, aged 5, from London. Well done, David!



This happy guard is all set to send an engine on its way. He was drawn by **Terrence Wright**, aged 6, from Birmingham.



Can you see Thomas chugging past the field? This smart picture was a joint effort from **Adam** and **Matthew Ovens**, who both come from Bristol.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one! If you would like to draw a picture for us, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Michael Stanfield

COMPETITION!

SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

Here's your chance to enter our super competition brought to you by Michael Stanfield Ltd . . .

FIRST PRIZE
10 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Giant Floor Puzzles.

SECOND PRIZE
10 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends ABC Playtrays.

THIRD PRIZE
10 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Giant Domino Sets.

RUNNERS UP
41 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Poster Art Sets.

How to enter:
All you have to do is colour in the picture below as brightly and carefully as you can. Then cut along the dotted line and send your entry to: *Thomas Colouring Competition, The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2.*

ENTRIES MUST REACH US BY 12TH MAY 1989

Name .....Age.....
Address .....
.....
.....
.....

Tick box if you would like to receive current Michael Stanfield catalogue plus one pound discount offer. ☐

Sig. Parent .....

Rules: No employee of Marvel Comics, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, William Heinemann Ltd or Michael Stanfield Ltd may enter this competition. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

A read-aloud story!

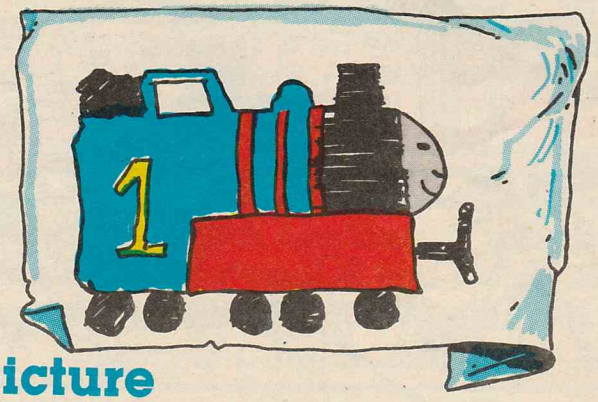
A Picture of Thomas

Thomas was waiting at the station to pick up his passengers. He overheard a little girl crying.

"I don't like train journeys," she said. "They're boring. I never have anything to do."

When he returned to the station Thomas spoke to the Fat Controller.

"Please, sir, could we hold a competition at the station? The children could draw pictures of the trains and the best picture would win a prize."



picture

"What a good idea, Thomas," agreed the Fat Controller. "This will give the children something to do on their journeys. And I shall judge the pictures."

The Fat Controller supplied each train with a box of paper and a set of coloured pens. Whenever a child rode on a train, they drew a picture of their favourite engine and handed it in to the guard.

One day Thomas was pleased to see the little girl waiting for his train. But she was crying again.

"I'm no good at drawing," she said sadly.

Thomas felt sad. His idea

wasn't working, after all.

"Even if you don't win, please have a go," he said. "I would like to see your drawing, whatever it looks like."

"Would you really?" said the girl, smiling. "I will. Just for you, Thomas. But I won't enter it for the competition."

The Fat Controller visited each train that night to make sure no drawings had been left behind accidently. He saw the picture the little girl had drawn. It was of Thomas.

"I'm afraid it's not for the competition, sir," said Thomas, and told him about the little girl.

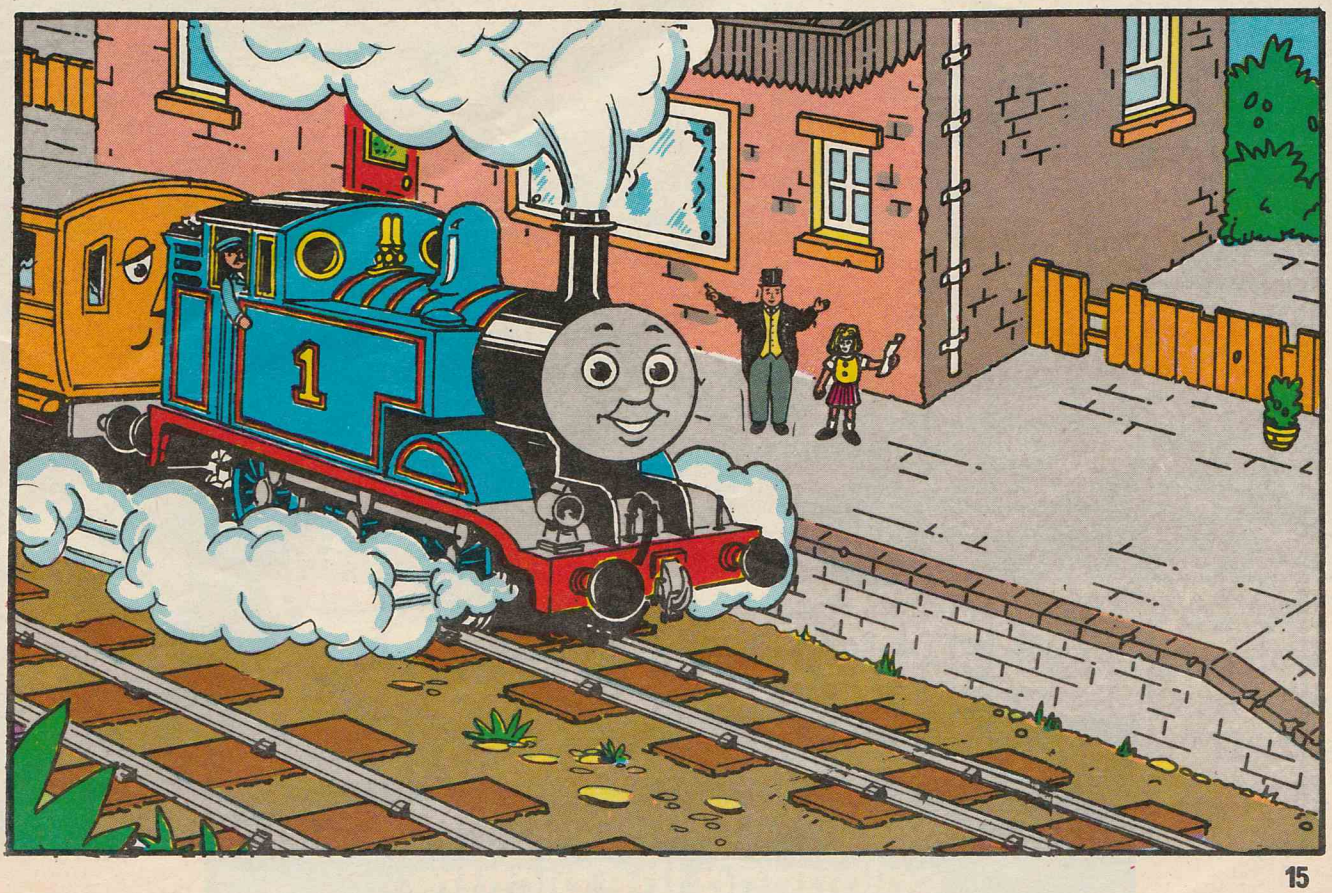
"But this is the best picture of all!" said the Fat Controller. "I judge it to be the winner."

The little girl was delighted to learn she had won. Her prize was to spend the day travelling all over the Island of Sodor on Thomas.

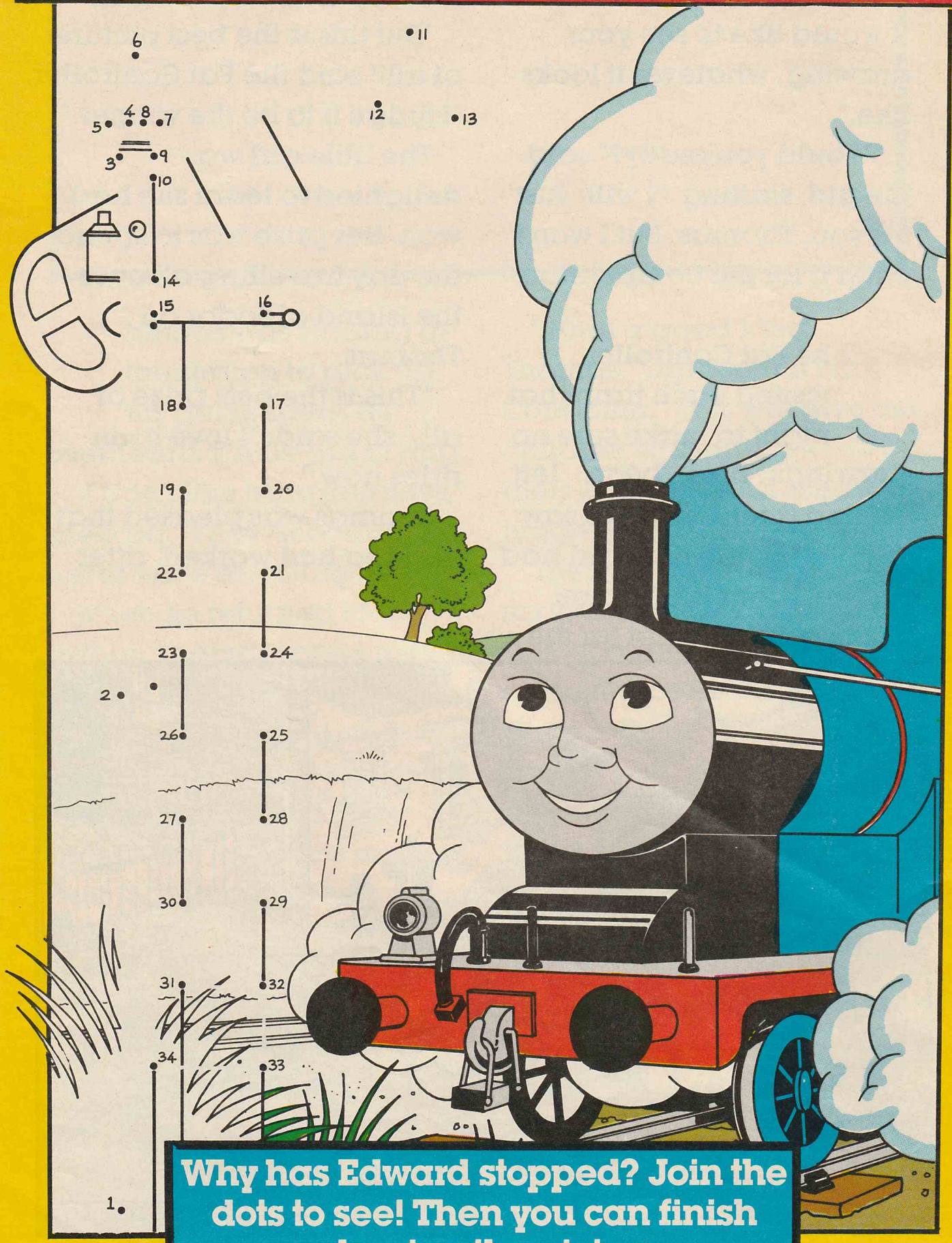
"This is the best prize of all," she said. "I love train rides now."

Thomas was pleased that his idea **had** worked, after all.

THE END

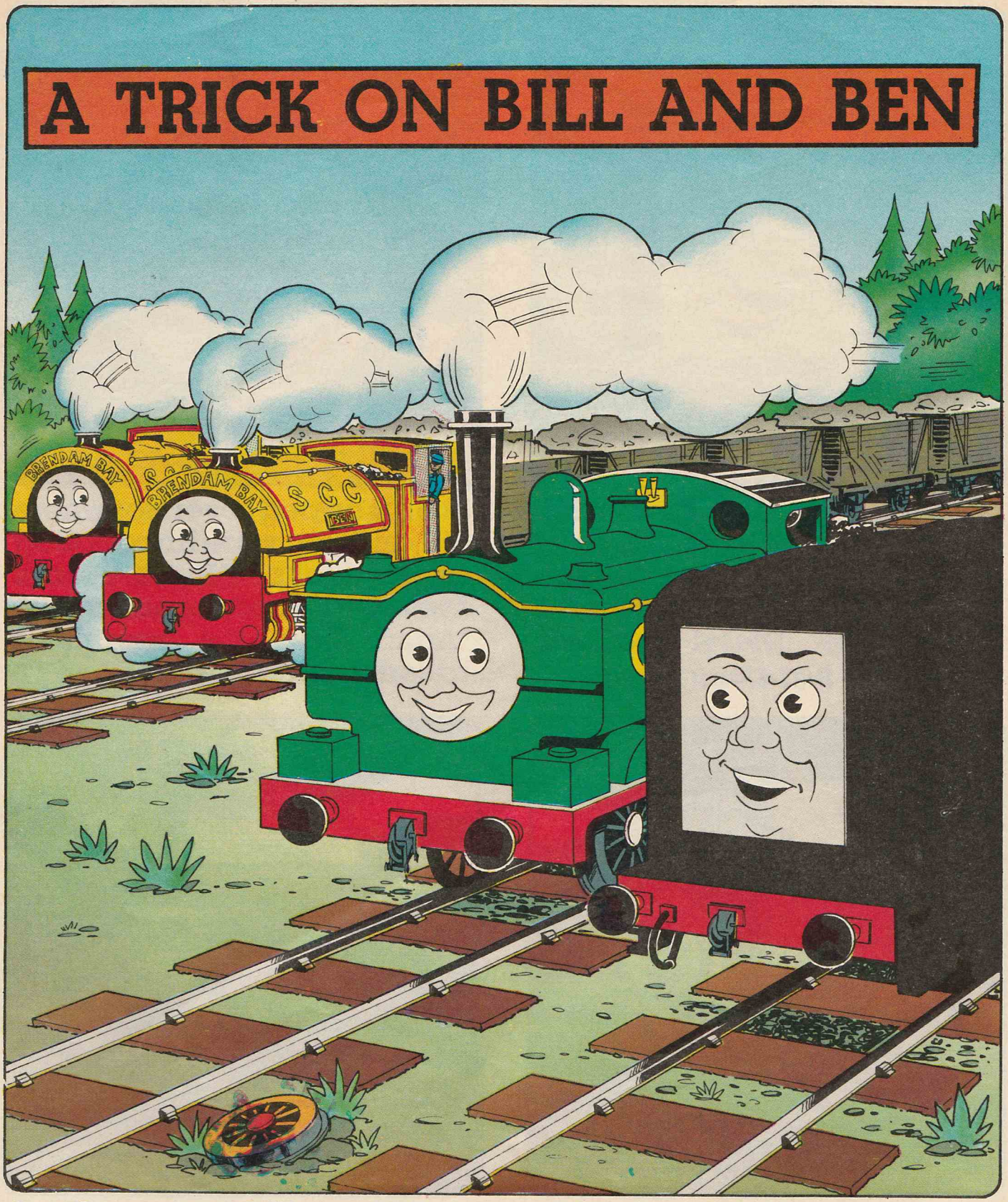


JOIN THE DOTS!



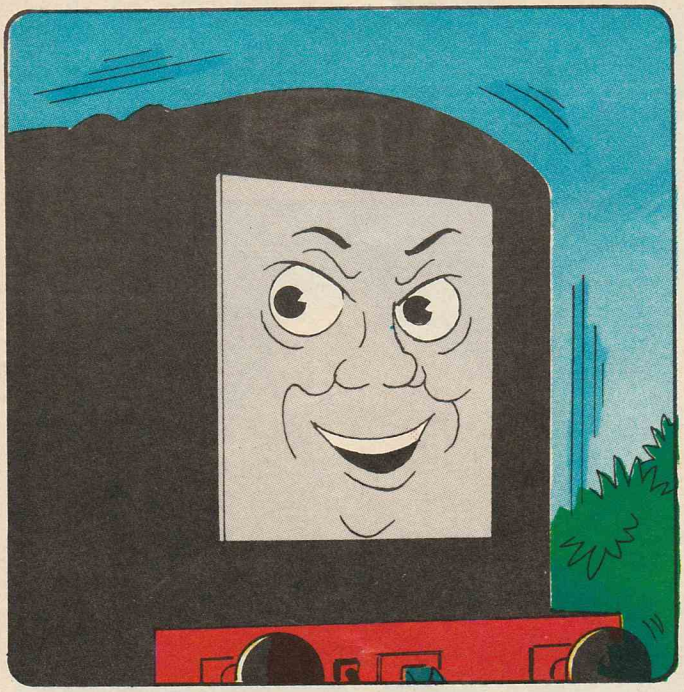
Why has Edward stopped? Join the dots to see! Then you can finish colouring the picture.

A TRICK ON BILL AND BEN

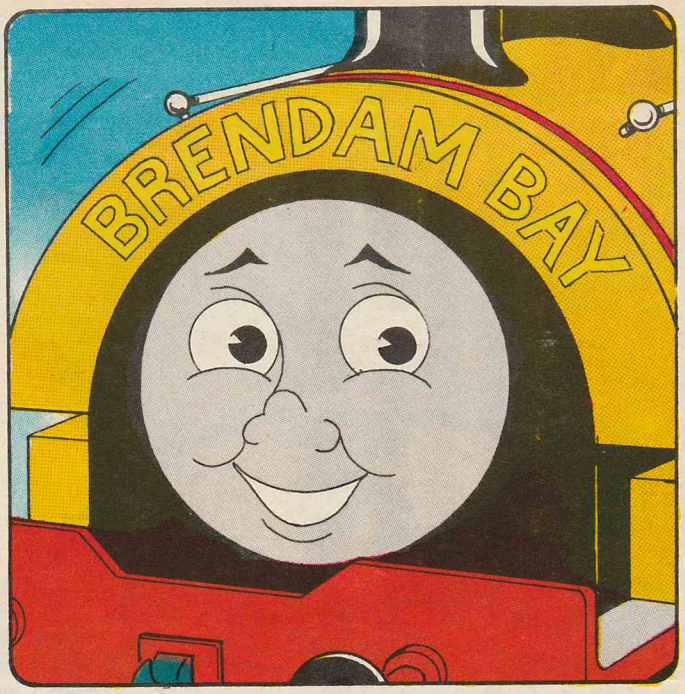


1. One day Bill and Ben came down to the harbour with their trucks of china clay. Diesel was working there and saw them. He could hardly believe his eyes.

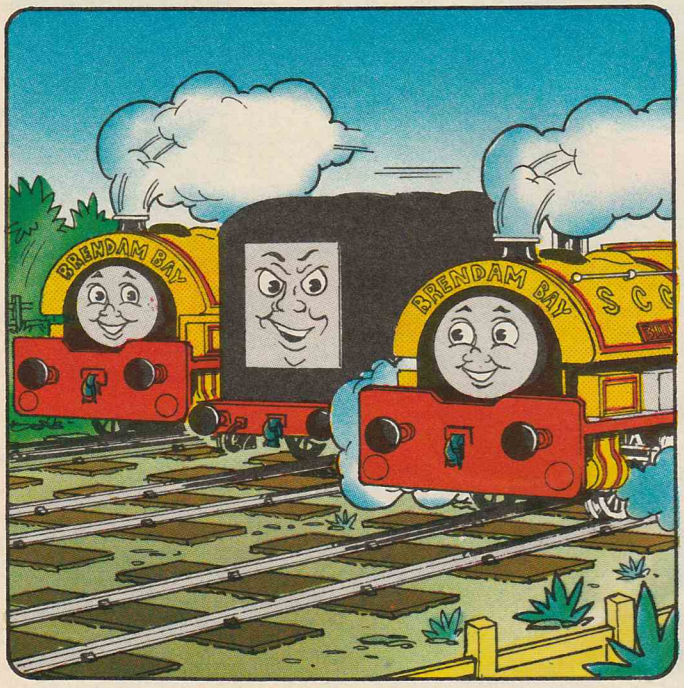
2. "That saddle-tank engine," he sighed in his oily voice. "There's **two** of him!" "Don't be silly," laughed Duck. "That's Bill and Ben, the twin tank engines!"



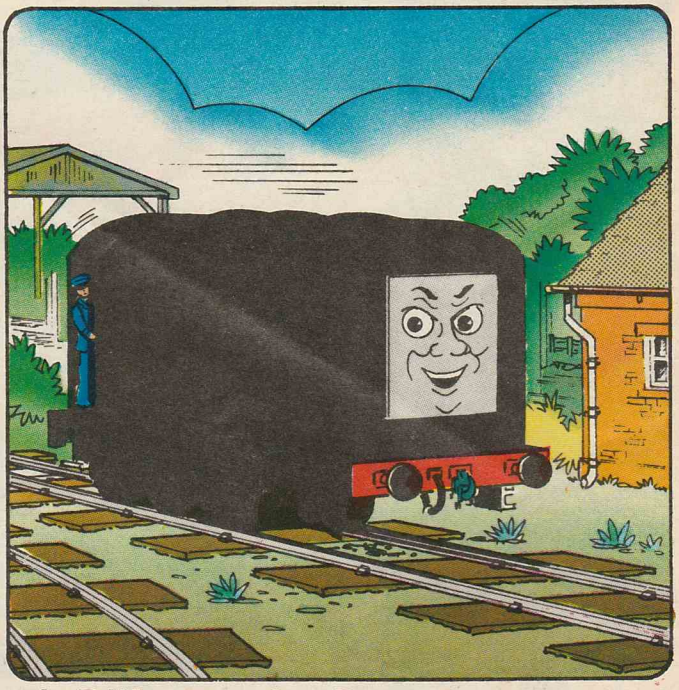
3. "Oh," said Diesel. "Twins are they? Bill. . . and Ben. Hmm. . . I see. . ." The twins had played a trick on Diesel in a race. Diesel realised what had happened now!



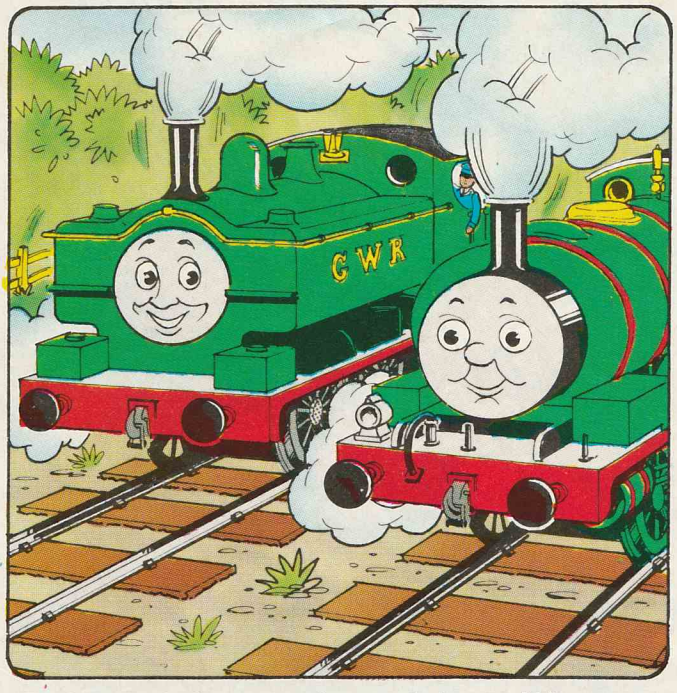
4. He slipped over to where Bill and Ben were uncoupling their trucks. "Hullo," said Diesel. "Hullo," replied Bill. "Aren't you the engine I raced?" asked Diesel.



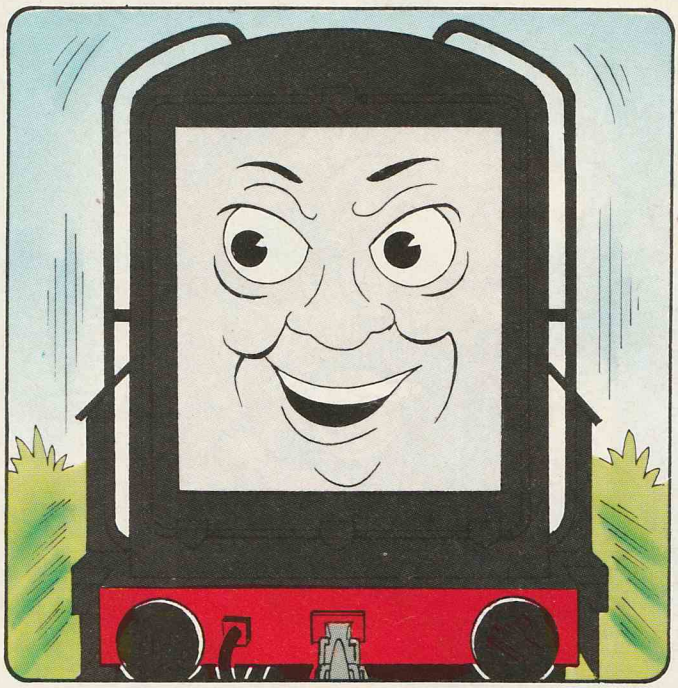
5. "That's right," laughed Bill. "Or was it your brother?" asked Diesel. "Could be," giggled Ben. Diesel smiled an oily smile and went back to work.



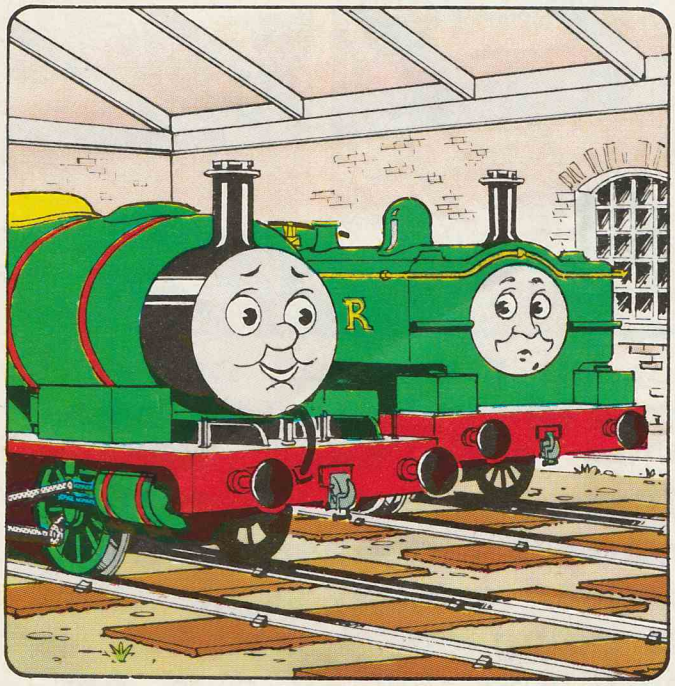
6. Bill and Ben collected some empty trucks and headed back to the clay pits. Percy and Duck watched as Diesel slinked about. "He is up to something," said Percy.



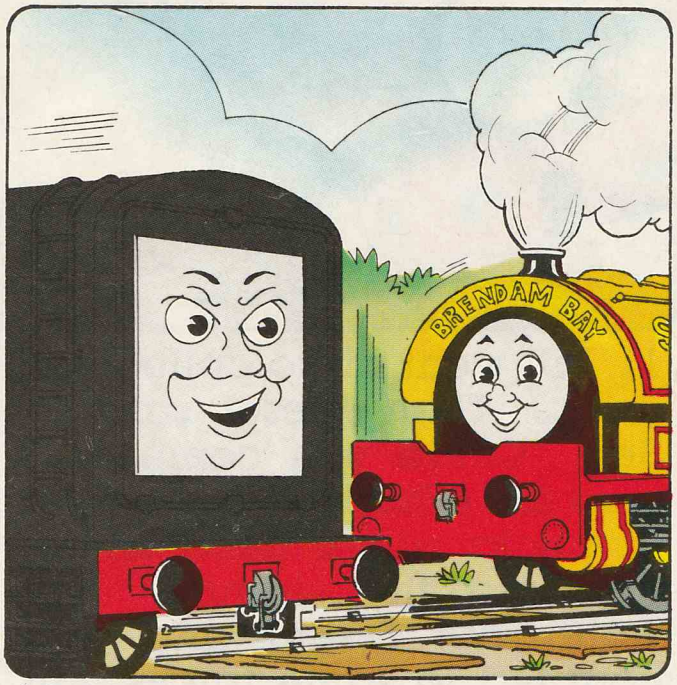
7. "And knowing him it's no good," added Duck. "He knows Bill and Ben tricked him in that race. He is bound to try and pay them back." They kept an eye on him.



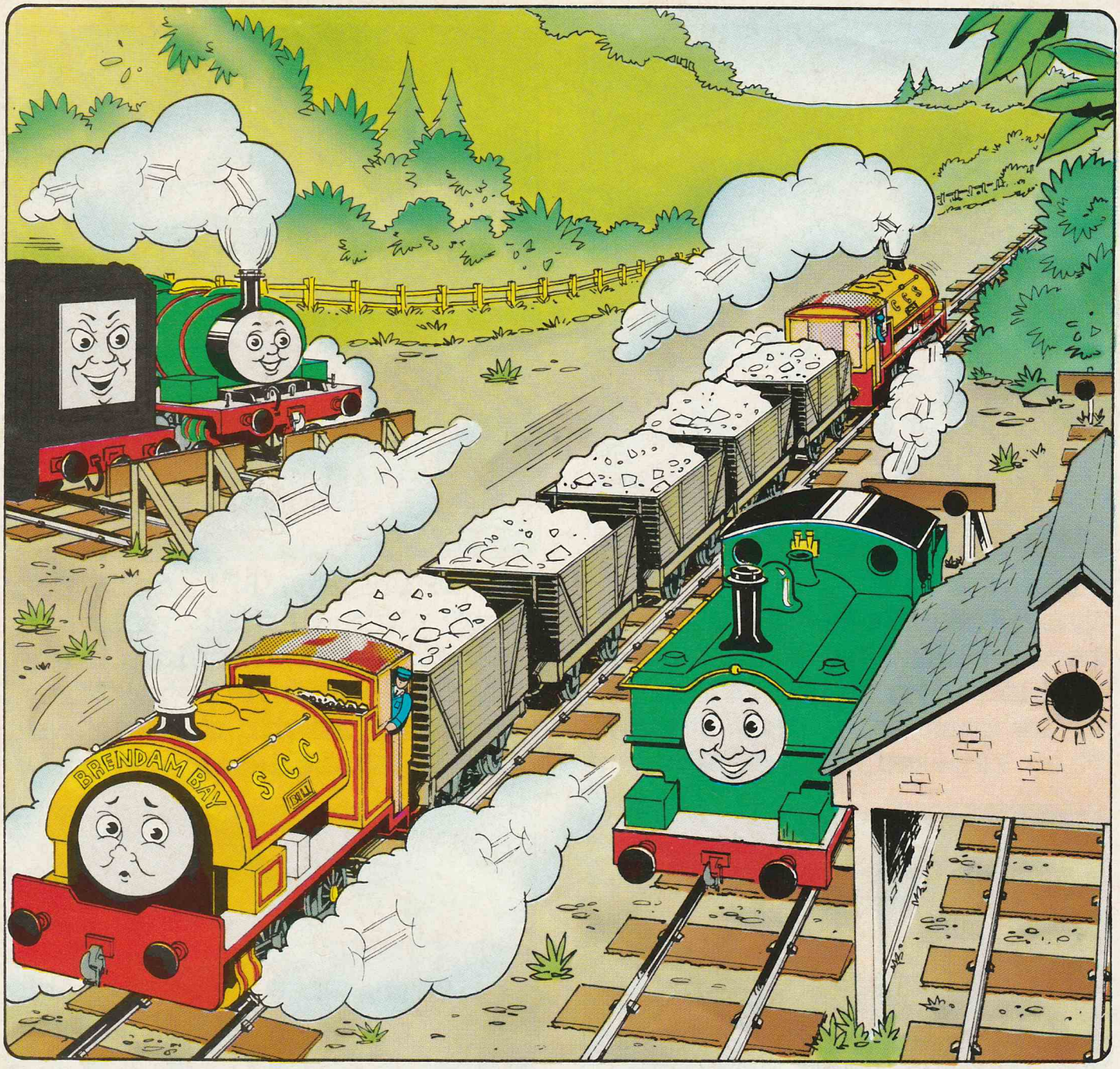
8. "When do Bill and Ben come to the harbour again?" asked Diesel that night in the shed. "Tomorrow," said Percy. "But why do you ask?" "Never mind," said Diesel.



9. "You won't do anything mean, will you?" asked Duck. "Don't you worry, Duck," said Diesel. But Duck and Percy were worried. They didn't trust Diesel at all.



10. The next day when Bill and Ben arrived, Diesel slid over to greet them. "Hullo, Bill," he said. "The Station-master's left some trucks for you in the yard."



11. Bill went off to collect his trucks. Then Diesel said to Ben, "Could you come and give me a hand? I have a lot of trucks which need shunting into the sidings." Ben went with Diesel and was coupled to some trucks. But what he didn't know was that Bill was already coupled to the other end! "Mind out," said Diesel. "They're heavy."

12. Bill pulled on one end and Ben pulled on the other! They both went nowhere! Diesel began to laugh. Duck and Percy laughed too. It was indeed a funny sight. "What is going on?" asked Bill. "Is that you, Bill?" called Ben. Then the twins laughed too. They could see the funny side and for once Diesel hadn't been mean!

In our next issue: No more Diesel?

THE END